

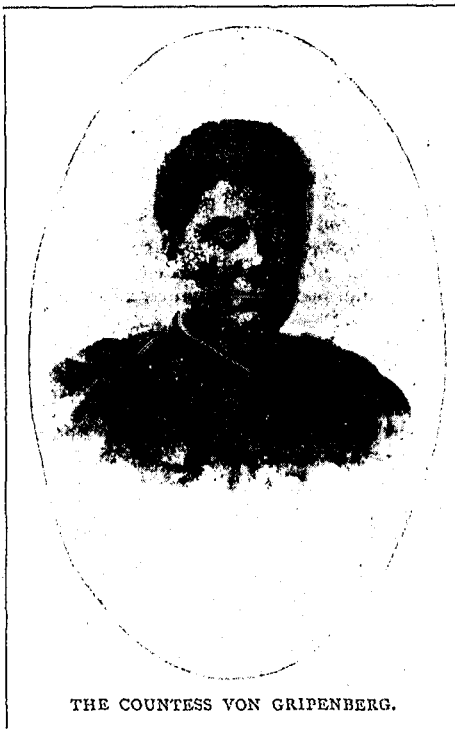
Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

THE COUNTESS ALEXANDRA VON GRIPENBERG.

We have had the pleasure of giving our readers a sketch and portrait of the Countess of Aberdeen, who is President of the International Council of Women, and also of Mrs. May Wright Sewall, the Vice-president. We think they will be interested in an account of the Countess Alexandra Von Gripenberg, the Treasurer of the Council, who is an enthusiastic and well-known worker in the Woman cause. Her father was the late Baron Von Gripenberg, who was a member of the Finnish Royal Senate. The Countess in her earlier years devoted herself to literature, her first novel being published when she was only 20 years of age. Until 1885 she was engrossed in pure literary work, but after a long visit to England, and a tour of the United States, she has almost entirely given her life to work for women. When, in 1889, the first Finnish woman's rights paper was started, the editorship of it was offered to the Countess, as being one of the most representative and foremost women of her country: and she still holds this position. She is also the President of the "Suomen Naisyhdistys," which is an Association for the enfranchisement of women. The headquarters of the Society are in Helsingor, with two Branch Unions in the country, the latter with a membership of about 400 women mainly belonging to the working classes. This Society has done admirable work in promoting Measures and Bills to enable women to enter the Universities without the special permission which is now necessary, and in aiming at the election of women as Poor Law Guardians, and making also for the abolition of regulated vice. Another excellent item on the progressive programme of this Finnish Women's Society is a suggestion that women should be allowed to hold Lectureships in Boys' High Schools. The Society also promotes classes in cookery, needlework, and domestic economy, and has a Bureau for the employment of women. The Countess devotes her many talents largely to improving the labour conditions of working women, and to raising their position morally, socially, and politically. She is finding the reward of her labours in many encouraging signs of the development of women's energies, and in several important victories which have been gained in Finland for the woman question, victories which are mainly due to the enthusiasm, the zeal, and the single-hearted devotion of Countess Alexandra Von Gripenberg to the cause she has made her own.



THE COUNTESS VON GRIPENBERG.

The Queen has been immensely touched and gratified by the spontaneous tributes she has recently received of the affection and regard of the English people. It is sincerely to be hoped that the completion of the 60th year of her reign will be marked in a fitting manner. One of the most acceptable gifts to the women of England, and which would be one of the most significant events of the Victorian era, would be the conferring on women of the Parliamentary vote. It seems such an anomaly that, in a country governed by a woman, women are denied so natural a right as a voice in the election of Members of Parliament.

We are glad to observe that, after all, Madame Felix Faure, the wife of the President of the French Republic, is to take part in the reception of the Emperor and Empress of Russia at the Elysée upon their visit to France. The ladies who are to have the honour of presentation to the Empress will be presented by the Comtesse de Montebello. It would have been an indelible disgrace to French womanhood had the "first lady of France" been excluded from taking part with her distinguished husband, the President, in the entertainment of the Heads of the Government of a friendly European State.

The International Women's Congress at Berlin has been described as "a brilliant success." In the educational section, Fräulein von Bistrans, in her able treatment of the question of opening the German universities to women, mentioned that the University of Tokyo counts 1,000 Japanese women students. She reproached Germany's backwardness. Dr. Schirmacher desired university education for women as giving a thorough mental training, and thereby greater insight into, and understanding of, all the circumstances of life, as well as obtaining her entrance into the liberal professions. Fräulein Rickert (Chicago) noted the fact of the rarity of divorce among women of higher education.

Miss Florence Routledge read an excellent paper on the work of Women's Trades Unions of Great Britain. In the art section Frau von Preuschen-Telmanns pointed out the difficulties which women encounter in preparation for an artistic career. She said that in Rome alone did women obtain full facilities. Head Matron Stosch, of Berlin, read a paper on sick nursing as a vocation for women. Miss Mueseler, of Berlin, spoke on the nursing work carried on in the colonies by the German Women's Union.

Dr. Ella Meusch contended that ability was entirely independent of sex, and was the only true test

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